

38. (New) A shock absorber comprising a cylinder, the cylinder defining a chamber therein and containing a fluid; a piston rod sealingly projecting into the cylinder, the piston rod being axially displaceable with respect to the cylinder; a piston attached to the piston rod, the piston being slidably disposed within the cylinder to sealingly divide the cylinder into a first chamber and a second chamber; a passageway disposed in at least a portion of the piston providing for fluid communication between the first and second chambers; wherein the fluid comprises a biodegradable polyol ester, said polyol ester having a polyol component and a carboxylic acid component, the polyol component comprising a hindered polyol and the carboxylic acid component having from about 5 to about 18 carbon atoms; and wherein said fluid is at least 80% biodegradable.--

--39. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 38, wherein said hindered polyol is selected from the group consisting of trimethylolpropane, neopentyl glycol, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, and mixtures thereof.--

--40. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 38, wherein said hindered polyol comprises trimethylolpropane.--

--41. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 38, wherein said carboxylic acid component comprises a monocarboxylic acid.--

--42. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 41, wherein the monocarboxylic acid comprises a linear carboxylic acid having from about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms.--

33. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 41, wherein the monocarboxylic acid comprises a branched carboxylic acid having from about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms.--

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--51. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 48, wherein said monocarboxylic acid comprises a mixture of C₅, C₆, C₇, C₈ and C₉ linear monocarboxylic acids.--

--52. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 38, wherein said fluid further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, corrosion inhibitors, antiwear additives, and seal conditioners.--

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53. (New) A shock absorber comprising a cylinder, the cylinder defining a chamber therein and containing a fluid; a piston rod sealingly projecting into the cylinder, the piston rod being axially displaceable with respect to the cylinder; a piston attached to the piston rod, the piston being slidably disposed within the cylinder to sealingly divide the cylinder into a first chamber and a second chamber; a passageway disposed in at least a portion of the piston providing for fluid communication between the first and second chambers; wherein the fluid comprises a biodegradable polyol ester, said polyol ester having a polyol component and a carboxylic acid component, the polyol component comprising trimethylolpropane, the carboxylic acid component comprising a mixture of C₅, C₆, C₇, C₈ and C₉ linear monocarboxylic acids; and wherein said fluid is at least 80% biodegradable.--

subcl 54. (New) A shock absorber containing a hydraulic fluid for dampening movement of associated mechanical members therein, said hydraulic fluid comprising a biodegradable polyol ester, said polyol ester having a polyol component and a carboxylic acid component, the polyol component comprising a hindered polyol and the carboxylic acid component having from about 5 to about 18 carbon atoms; and wherein said fluid is at least 80% biodegradable.--

--55. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 54, wherein said hindered polyol is selected from the group consisting of trimethylolpropane, neopentyl glycol, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, and mixtures thereof.--

--56. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 54, wherein said hindered polyol comprises trimethylolpropane.--

--57. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 54, wherein said carboxylic acid component comprises a monocarboxylic acid.--

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--58. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 57, wherein the monocarboxylic acid comprises a linear carboxylic acid having from about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms.--

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--59. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 57, wherein the monocarboxylic acid comprises a branched carboxylic acid having from about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms.--

--60. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 54, wherein said carboxylic acid component comprises a mixture of two or more linear monocarboxylic acids having from about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms.-- *new*

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--61. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 54, wherein said carboxylic acid component comprises a mixture of C₅, C₆, C₇, C₈ and C₉ linear monocarboxylic acids.--

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--62. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 54, wherein said carboxylic acid component comprises a mixture of a monocarboxylic acid and a dicarboxylic acid.--

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--63. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 54, wherein said dicarboxylic acid comprises a short chain dicarboxylic acid, and a substantial portion of said biodegradable polyol ester comprises polyol components having all but one alcohol functionality of each hindered polyol esterified with the monocarboxylic acid.--

--64. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 63, wherein said polyol component comprises trimethylolpropane.--

--65. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 64, wherein said monocarboxylic acid comprises a linear carboxylic acid having from about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms.--

--66. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 64, wherein said monocarboxylic acid comprises a mixture of C₅, C₆, C₇, C₈ and C₉ linear monocarboxylic acids.--

--67. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 54, wherein said fluid further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, corrosion inhibitors, antiwear additives, and seal conditioners.--

5632/68. (New) A method of dampening the movement of a mechanical member disposed within a shock absorber, wherein said mechanical member defines a first chamber and a second chamber within the shock absorber and includes at least one passageway for fluid communication between the first and second chambers; said method comprising providing a hydraulic fluid in the first and second chambers, the hydraulic fluid comprising a biodegradable polyol ester, said polyol ester having a polyol component and a carboxylic acid component, the polyol component comprising a hindered polyol and the carboxylic acid component having from about 5 to about 18 carbon atoms, wherein said fluid is at least 80% biodegradable, such that passage of the hydraulic fluid through the at least one passageway dampens the movement of the mechanical member.--

--69. (New) The method according to claim 68, wherein said hindered polyol is selected from the group consisting of trimethylolpropane, neopentyl glycol, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, and mixtures thereof.--

--70. (New) The method according to claim 68, wherein said hindered polyol comprises trimethylolpropane.--

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--71. (New) The method according to claim 68, wherein said carboxylic acid component comprises a monocarboxylic acid.--

--72. (New) The method according to claim 71, wherein the monocarboxylic acid comprises a linear carboxylic acid having from about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms.--

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--73. (New) The method according to claim 71, wherein the monocarboxylic acid comprises a branched carboxylic acid having from about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms.--

--74. (New) The method according to claim 68, wherein said carboxylic acid component comprises a mixture of two or more linear monocarboxylic acids having from about 5 to about 10 carbon atoms.--

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--75. (New) The method according to claim 68, wherein said carboxylic acid component comprises a mixture of C₅, C₆, C₇, C₈ and C₉ linear monocarboxylic acids.--

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--76. (New) The method according to claim 68, wherein said carboxylic acid component comprises a mixture of a monocarboxylic acid and a dicarboxylic acid.--

--77. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 38, wherein said fluid is at least 90% biodegradable.--

--78. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 38, wherein said polyol component consists essentially of trimethylolpropane.--

--79. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 53, wherein said fluid is at least 90% biodegradable.--

--80. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 53, wherein said polyol component consists essentially of trimethylolpropane.--

--81. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 54, wherein said fluid is at least 90% biodegradable.--

--82. (New) The shock absorber according to claim 54, wherein said polyol component consists essentially of trimethylolpropane.--

--83. (New) The method according to claim 68, wherein said fluid is at least 90% biodegradable.--

--84. (New) The method according to claim 68, wherein said polyol component consists essentially of trimethylolpropane.--

Please cancel claims 1-37, without prejudice.